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United States Department of Agriculture

Office of the Secretary  
Washington, D.C. 20250

JAN 17 2006

Mr. Dale R. Burton  
Hawaii Rural Development Council  
c/o Lei Kaponu  
234 Nahalea Avenue  
Hilo, Hawaii 96720

Dear Mr. Burton:

Thank you for your comments on behalf of the Hawaii Rural Development Council concerning the 2007 Farm Bill. We appreciate your sharing your insights and recommendations with us on this important legislation.

Farm Bill issues are and will continue to be a major focus of the Department of Agriculture, and it is good to have the benefit of the Council's collective wisdom and experience in this regard. I assure you that the ideas you have expressed will be given full consideration as the Department develops its proposals for the bill.

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your views.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Johanns", written in a cursive style.

Mike Johanns  
Secretary